

Sir, the South-West monsoon rainfall is defined as 'Normal' when the rainfall received in the country as a whole is within 90% to 110% of the long term average. In the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 the rainfall in South West monsoon was 105%, 96% and 92% respectively of the long term average.

(b) to (d) India receives an average annual precipitation of 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) which includes rainfall and snow. Out of this, 3,000 BCM occurs during monsoon. The average annual flow in various rivers of the country is assessed at 1869 BCM. Out of this, utilizable flow by conventional methods is estimated at 690 BCM. In addition, about 200 to 250 BCM can be utilized through interbasin water transfer from the surplus river basins to the deficit river basins.

A live storage capacity of 177 BCM has been created by construction of large dams and medium projects upto 1995. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and 132 BCM are under planning. It has also been estimated that about 24 BCM of rainwater is stored in 3.5 lakh minor irrigation tanks. Further, 432 BCM of ground water is replenishable out of which 154 BCM is being used.

Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Program, Artificial recharge of ground water and rooftop rainwater harvesting under various schemes. An assessment of the total quantity of rainwater harvested through these means is not made.

Utilisation of Water River Basin

†684. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government about the quantity of water available from rivers of the Ganga basin;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the quantity of water flowing annually in the rivers of this basin alongwith the names of the same;

(c) the assessment regarding the quantity of water that can be utilised from each river; and

(d) the quantity of water being used from each river at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The mean annual run off in river Ganga in India is estimated to be 501.6 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM). Some of the major tributaries of river Ganga are Ramganga, Yamuna, Tons, Gomati, Ghagra, Son, Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda. An assessment of the quantity of Water that can be utilised and the quantity that is being utilised has not been made separately for each tributary of Ganga. For the basin as whole, the quantity of water that can be utilised annually is estimated to the 250 BCM. During the year 2000, the utilisation was estimated to be 150.8 BCM for irrigation, 7.9 BCM for domestic use and 5.9 BCM for industrial use.

National Water Policy

685. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Water Policy formulated in 1988 clearly provided that the order of priority for water use should be first for drinking followed by irrigation and the last should be for industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that water has become a commodity in Gujarat and big farmers grow water intensive cash crops which need large quantity of water; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the information obtained from Government of Gujarat